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Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

Summary record of the 452nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 18 July 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kariyawasam ..... (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chairman** declared the 2007 session open.

Adoption of the agenda

2. *The agenda was adopted.*

Report of the Chairman of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 60/48

3. **The Chairman** said that by its resolution 60/48 of 8 December 2005, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", the General Assembly had requested him to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the Assembly at its sixty-second session.

4. Although the Committee had not been able to reach agreement on the manner of implementation of the Declaration, its objectives and vision remained valid. Since the adoption of the Declaration in 1971, however, the world situation had changed significantly, notably with the end of the super-Power rivalry, which had had an impact in the Indian Ocean region. While several new cooperative initiatives had been developed, new threats, including terrorism, were affecting regional stability and security, and efforts to achieve disarmament and arms control in the region had faltered.

5. The ongoing United Nations reform process offered an opportunity to explore a new approach to the Committee's work. It might even prove necessary to revise the Declaration in order to bring it into line with current realities.

6. In view of the complexities and difficulties involved in the implementation of the Declaration, more time would be needed before the Committee could discuss practical measures for ensuring peace and stability in the Indian Ocean. The Bureau could conduct informal consultations with a view to making proposals for increasing the Committee's usefulness as a United Nations body. The Committee might wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it should allow time for consultations regarding how measures envisaged in the Declaration might be considered in a more focused manner.

7. **Mr. Milton** (Australia) said that the prospects for substantive work by the Committee, at least in the near future, remained poor. It was to be hoped that in the interests of strengthening regional cooperation and security, such work would commence in due course. However, until that time, the resources devoted to the Committee should remain limited.

8. **Mr. Tugio** (Indonesia) said that the vision behind the Declaration remained crucial for regional as well as international peace and stability. The work of the Committee needed to be made relevant to the current time, with a view to bringing lasting peace to the region. Once areas of commonality had been identified, a modality for implementation could be developed. A step-by-step approach as reaffirmed in the report could be workable. The Committee should encourage regional cooperation in economic, scientific, environmental and humanitarian fields, and the strengthening of existing regional initiatives, as those were necessary building blocks for regional prosperity and security.

9. His country had long pursued regional endeavours, working with member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality and an ASEAN community by 2020, and to achieve the ASEAN vision of dynamic regional peace, prosperity and caring communities. His country was also promoting greater partnership between African and Asian States, through the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership adopted at Jakarta in 2005. His country's experience of the two tsunamis bore witness to the value of strong regional and international partnerships.

10. The principle of multilateralism centred on the United Nations was paramount to the achievement of world peace. It was important for all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in the Committee's work. Greater efforts were needed to bring together all concerned parties to facilitate the development of a dialogue through which to advance regional peace and security. His delegation was committed to working with the Committee towards achieving the vision of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

11. **Mr. Shah** (Pakistan) said that his country supported the efforts of the Chairman to advance the agenda of the Committee. Although some substantive

issues had reached an impasse, the countries of the region and other countries should remain engaged in order to resolve them. His delegation was committed to seeking a solution to the long-standing issues. With regard to expansion of the work of the Committee in view of the emergence of new threats, more time and consultations were needed, although that should not lead to duplication of work.

Adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session
(A/AC.159/L.138)

12. **Mr. Randrianarivony** (Madagascar), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.138), explained that paragraphs 3 and 7 would be completed to reflect the statements made at the current meeting.

13. **Ms. Tawfiq** (Iraq) said that there were discrepancies between the Arabic and English versions of paragraph 10 and requested that they should be eliminated.

14. *The draft report was adopted.*

Closure of the session

15. **The Chairman** declared the 2007 session closed.

The meeting rose at 10.45 p.m.